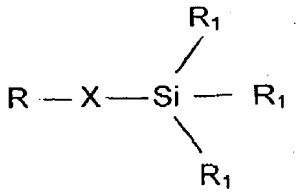
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

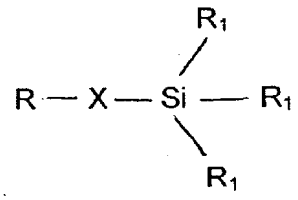
If acceptable to the Examiner, please enter the following amendments to the claims wherein language to be added is indicated by underline and language to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikethrough.~~

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): Aromatic-based silyl monomers having a structure represented by



wherein R is a polymerizable group; X is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkyloxy, C_{6-36} aryl and C_{6-36} aryloxy; and the R_1 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-20} cycloalkyl, C_{6-36} aryl, C_{6-36} aryl ether, C_{6-36} heterocycle, C_{6-36} heterocycle with one or more substituents, C_{1-10} alkyl ether and C_{6-36} aryloxy.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A polymeric composition produced through the polymerization of one or more aromatic-based silyl monomers having a structure represented by



wherein R is a polymerizable group; X is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} ~~alkyl~~ alkylene, C_{1-10} ~~alkyloxy~~ alkyleneoxy, C_{6-36} ~~aryl~~ arylene and C_{6-36} ~~aryloxy~~ aryleneoxy; and the R_1 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-20} cycloalkyl, C_{6-36} aryl, C_{6-36} aryl ether, C_{6-36} heterocycle, C_{6-36} heterocycle with one or more substituents, C_{1-10} alkyl ether and C_{6-36} aryloxy, with at least one R_1 group being other than a methyl group~~,~~; and with at least one of said monomers having at least one non-phenyl R_1 group.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more aromatic or non-aromatic non-siloxy-based monomers.

Claim 4 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more hydrophilic monomers.

Claim 5 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more hydrophobic monomers.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A method of producing the aromatic-based silyl monomers of claim 1 comprising:

combining an aromatic alkylsilane with a catalyst to form a product; and

combining said product with acetic acid followed by an addition of acryloyl chloride.

Claim 7 (Previously amended): The polymeric compositions of claim 3 wherein said one or more aromatic or non-aromatic non-siloxy-based monomers is selected from the group consisting of 2-phenyoxyethyl methacrylate, 3,3-diphenylpropyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethylacrylamide, methyl methacrylate, 2-(1-naphthylethyl) methacrylate, glycol methacrylate, 3-phenylpropyl acrylate and 2-(2-naphthylethyl) methacrylate.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The polymeric composition ~~compositions~~ of claim 4 wherein said one or more hydrophilic monomers is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ N,N-dimethylacrylamide ~~and methyl methacrylate~~.

Claim 9 (Previously amended): The polymeric compositions of claim 5 wherein said one or more hydrophobic monomers is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, 3-methacryloyloxypropyldiphenylmethylsilane and 2-phenyloxyethyl methacrylate.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method of producing ophthalmic devices from the polymeric compositions of claim 2, 3, 4 or 5 comprising:

casting one or more polymeric compositions in the form of a rod;

lathing or machining said rod into disks; and

lathing or machining said disks into ophthalmic devices.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method of producing ophthalmic devices from the polymeric compositions of claim 2, 3, 4 or 5 comprising:

pouring one or more polymeric compositions into a mold prior to curing;

curing said one or more polymeric compositions; and

removing said one or more polymeric compositions form said mold following curing thereof.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A method of using ophthalmic devices of claim 10 or 11 comprising:

making an incision in the cornea of an eye; and

implanting said ophthalmic device within the eye.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 10, 11 or 12 wherein said ophthalmic device is an intraocular lens or a corneal inlay.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 10 or 11 wherein said ophthalmic device is a contact lens.

Claim 15 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the polymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more strengthening agents.

Claim 16 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more aromatic or non-aromatic non-siloxy-based monomers and one or more strengthening agents.

Claim 17 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more hydrophilic monomers and one or more strengthening agents.

Claim 18 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more hydrophobic monomers and one or more strengthening agents.

Claim 19 (Original): The polymeric composition of claim 15, 16, 17 or 18 wherein said one or more strengthening agents are selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl acrylates and methacrylates.

Claim 20 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the polymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more crosslinking agents.

Claim 21 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more aromatic or non-aromatic non-siloxy-based monomers and one or more crosslinking agents.

Claim 22 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more hydrophilic monomers and one or more crosslinking agents.

Claim 23 (Previously amended): The polymeric composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric composition is produced through the copolymerization of one or more of said aromatic-based silyl monomers with one or more hydrophobic monomers and one or more crosslinking agents.

Claim 24 (Original): The polymeric composition of claim 20, 21, 22 or 23 wherein said one or more crosslinking agents are selected from the group consisting of diacrylates and dimethacrylates of triethylene glycol, butylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, hexane-1,6-diol, thio-diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, trimethylolpropane triacrylate, N,N'-dihydroxyethylene bisacrylamide, diallyl phthalate, triallyl cyanurate, divinylbenzene; ethylene glycol divinyl ether, N,N-methylene-bis-(meth)acrylamide, sulfonated divinylbenzene and divinylsulfone.